



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

-----MEDIA ADVISORY-----

**MAYOR PEREZ TO ADDRESS 14TH ANNUAL
MARIA C. SANCHEZ AWARDS BANQUET**

WHEN: Friday, December 2, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hartford

Mayor Eddie Perez will be a featured speaker at the 14th Annual Maria C. Sanchez Awards Banquet. This event honors individuals and organizations that make outstanding contributions to the Puerto Rican community through leadership, mentorship, education, and preserving culture.

Six awards will be presented including for individual, organization, educator, cultural arts, youth leadership, and humanitarianism.

Mayor Perez says, "Receiving this award is an incredibly high honor. Maria Sanchez was a pioneer, blazing the trail in the fields of business, education, politics, and homeownership. Those who have followed are forever in her debt."

Maria C. Sanchez (1926-1989) came to Hartford from her native Puerto Rico in 1953. She is recognized as the "Godmother" of the Hispanic Community. This businesswoman turned activist became a member of the Hartford Board of Education and in 1988, became the first Hispanic woman elected to the Connecticut General Assembly. The Maria C. Sanchez Elementary School on Babcock Street was dedicated in her honor in 1991.

For more information on the Mayor's role, please contact Ramon Espinoza, Media Liaison, at (860) 522-4888 x6208.